

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2467
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2007
PRESERVATION OF PALM LEAF MANUSCRIPTS
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Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether rare palm leaf manuscripts are being preserved and protected scientifically by the Government ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount of funds allocated for the purpose, during last three years, State-wise;
- (d) whether Micro-Filming of those manuscripts are being done;
- (e) if so, the details thereof ;
- (f) the time by which it is likely to be completed;
- (g) the details of manuscripts and catalogues unearthed to preserve India's heritage; and
- (h) The manner in which the National Mission for Manuscripts helps in spreading awareness and encourage use of manuscripts and catalogues for use of educational purposes ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM & CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. Rare palm leaf manuscripts are preserved and protected scientifically under the National Mission for Manuscripts, through the network of 33 Manuscript Conservation Centres and their partner centres, spread all over the country.

(c) Under the Mission no state-wise allocation of funds are made. However, the details of the amount spent under the Mission during the last three years are as under:

Year Allocation
(Rs. IN Crore)

2004-05	3.47
2005-06	7.90
2006-07	9.43

(d)to(f) Under the National Mission for Manuscripts, digitization of important manuscripts in the country are taken up to prepare a national database of important manuscripts. This is an ongoing process and, therefore, no deadline can be fixed. However, since the launch of the Mission in 2003, more than 15,000 manuscripts containing 2.2 million manuscript pages have already been digitized .

(g) A large number of new manuscripts, running into thousands, have been unearthed under the Mission.

(h) The National Mission for Manuscripts helps in spreading awareness about the manuscript heritage of India through awareness campaigns, workshops, National surveys, exhibitions, public lectures and publication of books on manuscripts.